conceived as there are many impediments to the growth of this sector at present.

Accordingly, a draft Bill has been drawn up. The proposed Act envisages *inter alia* harmonization and simplification of existing laws, development orientation, creation of a Development Fund, defining standards through a Processed Food Authority etc.

Increasing the yield of food crops

3536. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what strategy has been adopted by Government in the present decade to increase yield of major food crops;

(b) how far it has been successful;

(c) whether it aims to remove regional imbalances in the yield; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The strategy for increasing yield of major food crops involves development and adoption of improved technologies, extensive use of improved seeds possessing high yield characteristics and resistance to diseases and pests, optimal mix and increased use of organic and inorganic fertilizers, provision of irrigation facilities through watershed development, on-farm water management and conjunctive use of ground and surface water resources, plant protection through scientifc use of pesticides, effective transfer of technology and extensions delivery, etc.

(b) The yield of major crops in the past decade has shown upward trend, though the yield has been adversely affected due to vagaries of weather in some years, as can be seen in the Table given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

(c) and (d) In order to increase yield/productivity in backward regions, regionally differentiated strategies are adopted through the Macro Management Scheme, Technology Missions and other area specific schemes/ crops/varieties.

Statement

Yield of foodgrains from 1990-91 *to* 2000-2001

Year	Yield (Kg/Hect.)
1990-91	1380
1991-92	1382
1992-93	1457
1993-94	1501
1994-95	1546
1995-96	1491
1996-97	1614
1997-98	1552
1998-99	1627
1999-2000	1697
2000-2001	1638

KVKs in Orissa

3537. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Krishi Vigyan Kendras functioning in Orissa;

(b) whether Government have any plan to set up more KVKs in the State; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to set up any agricultural research institute on dairy, goat, sheep and mushroom cultivation in Orissa during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) There are 12 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) functioning in Orissa State. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has sanctioned for strengthening of the Zonal Agricultural Research Station (ZARS) at Bhadrak and Navrangpur to take up the additional functions of KVK.

(b) Yes, Sir. The ICAR has proposed to establish new KVKs in three districts *viz.*, Jharsuguda, Deogarh and Jaipur in the State.